CRIMINAL SENTIMENTS SCALE – MODIFIED

Directions: Read each statement carefully and decide how you feel about it. Circle **A if you agree** with the statement or **D if you disagree** with the statement. If you are undecided or cannot make up your mind about the statement, circle U. Remember – there are no right or wrong answers.

LAW

1. Pretty well all laws deserve our respect.   A U D
2. It's our duty to obey all laws.   A U D
3. Laws are usually bad.   A U D
4. The law is rotten to the core.   A U D
5. You cannot respect the law   A U D
     because it's there only to help a small
     and selfish group of people.
6. All laws should be obeyed just   A U D
     because they are laws.
7. The law does not help the average person.   A U D
8. The law is good.   A U D
9. Law and justice are the same thing.   A U D
10. The law makes slaves out of most   A U D
     people for a few people on the top.

                                                        Law Total:_____

COURTS

11. Almost any jury can be fixed.   A U D
12. You cannot get justice in court.   A U D
13. Lawyers are honest.   A U D
14. The prosecution often produces fake witnesses.   A U D
15. Judges are honest and kind.   A U D
16. Court decisions are pretty well always fair.   A U D
17. Pretty well anything can be fixed   A U D
     in court if you have enough money.
18. A judge is a good person.   A U D

                                                        Court Total:_____

POLICE

19. The police are honest.   A U D
20. A cop is a friend to people in need.   A U D
21. Life would be better with fewer cops.   A U D
22. The police should be paid more   A U D
     for their work.
23. The police are as crooked as the   A U D
     people they arrest.
24. Society would be better off   A U D
     if there were more police.
25. The police almost never help people.   A U D

                                                        Police Total:_____

TLV

7. Sometimes a person like me has to break the law to get ahead in life.   A U D

8. Most successful people broke the law to get ahead in life.   A U D

9. You should always obey the law, even if it keeps you from getting ahead in life.   A U D

10. It's OK to break the law as long as you don't get caught.   A U D

11. Most people would commit crimes if they wouldn't get caught.   A U D

12. There is never a good reason to break the law.   A U D

13. A hungry man has the right to steal.   A U D

14. It's OK to get around the law as long as you don't actually break it.   A U D

15. You should only obey those laws that are reasonable.   A U D

16. You're crazy to work for a living if there's an easier way, even if it means breaking the law.   A U D

TVL Total:_____

ICO

17. People who have broken the law have the same sorts of ideas about life as me.   A U D

18. I prefer to be with people who obey the law rather than people who break the law.   A U D

19. I'm more like a professional criminal than people who break the law now and then.   A U D

20. People who have been in trouble with the law are more like me than people who don't have trouble with the law.   A U D

21. I have very little in common with people who never break the law.   A U D

22. No one who breaks the law can be my friend.   A U D

ICO Total:_____

CSS TOTAL:_____

Name:_____   Date:_____

CRIMINAL SENTIMENTS SCALE – MODIFIED ---- SCORING KEY

Directions: Read each statement carefully and decide how you feel about it. Circle **A if you agree** with the statement or **D if you disagree** with the statement. If you are undecided or cannot make up your mind about the statement, circle U. Remember – there are no right or wrong answers.

LAW
1. Pretty well all laws deserve our respect.   0 1 2
2. It's our duty to obey all laws.   0 1 2
3. Laws are usually bad.   2 1 0
4. The law is rotten to the core.   2 1 0
5. You cannot respect the law   2 1 0
    because it's there only to help a small
    and selfish group of people.
6. All laws should be obeyed just   0 1 2
    because they are laws.
7. The law does not help the average person.   2 1 0
8. The law is good.   0 1 2
9. Law and justice are the same thing.   0 1 2
10. The law makes slaves out of most   2 1 0
    people for a few people on the top.
                                                    Law Total:_____

COURTS
11. Almost any jury can be fixed.   2 1 0
12. You cannot get justice in court.   2 1 0
13. Lawyers are honest.   0 1 2
14. The prosecution often produces fake witnesses.   2 1 0
15. Judges are honest and kind.   0 1 2
16. Court decisions are pretty well always fair.   0 1 2
17. Pretty well anything can be fixed   2 1 0
    in court if you have enough money.
18. A judge is a good person.   0 1 2
                                                    Court Total:_____

POLICE
19. The police are honest.   0 1 2
20. A cop is a friend to people in need.   0 1 2
21. Life would be better with fewer cops.   2 1 0
22. The police should be paid more   0 1 2
    for their work.
23. The police are as crooked as the   2 1 0
    people they arrest.
24. Society would be better off   0 1 2
    if there were more police.
25. The police almost never help people.   2 1 0
                                                    Police Total:_____

TLV

26. Sometimes a person like me has to 2 1 0
    break the law to get ahead in life.
27. Most successful people broke the law 2 1 0
    to get ahead in life.
28. You should always obey the law, even 0 1 2
    if it keeps you from getting ahead in life.
29. It's OK to break the law as long as you 2 1 0
    don't get caught.
30. Most people would commit crimes if 2 1 0
    they wouldn't get caught.
31. There is never a good reason to 0 1 2
    break the law.
32. A hungry man has the right to steal. 2 1 0
33. It's OK to get around the law as long 2 1 0
    as you don't actually break it.
34. You should only obey those laws 2 1 0
    that are reasonable.
35. You're crazy to work for a living if 2 1 0
    there's an easier way, even if it
    means breaking the law.

TVL Total:_____

ICO

36. People who have broken the law have 2 1 0
    the same sorts of ideas about life as me.
37. I prefer to be with people who obey 0 1 2
    the law rather than people who break
    the law.
38. I'm more like a professional criminal 2 1 0
    than people who break the law now
    and then.
39. People who have been in trouble with 2 1 0
    the law are more like me than people
    who don't have trouble with the law.
40. I have very little in common with 2 1 0
    people who never break the law.
41. No one who breaks the law can be my 0 1 2
    friend.

ICO Total:_____

CSS TOTAL:_____

Name:_____   Date:_____

The Criminal Sentiments Scale-Modified

The Criminal Sentiments Scale-Modified (CSS-M; Shields & Simourd, 1991) is a self-report instrument that measures antisocial attitudes, values, and beliefs directly related to criminal activity.

It consists of 41 items grouped into five subscales:
Attitudes Toward the Law (Law),
Court (Court),
Police (Police),
Tolerance for Law Violations (TLV), and
Identification with Criminal Others (ICO).

The first three subscales are combined to form the Law-Court-Police (LCP) subscale that assesses respect for the law and criminal justice system. The TLV subscale follows the concept of 1neutralization' (Sykes & Matza, 1957) which effects specific justifications for criminal behavior. The ICO assesses personal evaluative judgments about law violators. Higher scores on the CSS-M are indicative of greater criminal attitudes. Early versions of the CSS-M have been used in numerous studies with a wide range of samples including probationers, provincial prisoners, young offenders, forensic prisoners, and university students (Andrews, Wormith, & Kiessling, 1985; Roy & Wormith, 1985; Wormith & Andrews, 1984, 1995). Wormith and Andrews (1995) found the original CSS predicted recidivism among relatively young (i.e., 21-years-old) mainly first time property offenders, while Simourd and van de Ven (1999) found the CSS-M predicted recidivism among older violent offenders.

Law-Court-Police (LCP): higher scores indicate pro-social attitudes.
TLV & ICO: lower scores indicate pro-social attitudes.
The Total Score: calculated by subtracting the combined scores on TLV & ICO scales from the LCP scale.